

**Remarks/Arguments**

Entry of the foregoing amendments, prior to examination, is respectfully requested.

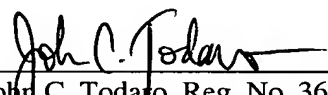
Claims 1-15 are pending.

An abstract is enclosed.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John C. Todaro, Reg. No. 36,036  
Attorney for Applicants

MERCK & CO., Inc.  
P.O. Box 2000  
Rahway, New Jersey 07065  
Tel.: (732) 594-0125

Date: July 6, 2005